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COMMUNITY ON-LINE INFORMATION SYSTEM (COINS)

ACTION COMPONENT(S):

NPIC, CRS, OCS

USER COMPONENT(S):

Analytic components in all USIB agencies

OBJECTIVES:

The objective of this project is to develop a computer network within the Washington intelligence community to provide intelligence analysts with access to files in other agencies directly using inquiry and display devices located in their own agency.

DESCRIPTION:

The COINS effort currently underway is known as COINS I and is experimental in nature. CIA Headquarters participation in this system will be through an OCS IBM 360/50 computer, connected to the system store-and-forward switch at DIA. Software required for Agency participation consists of the OCS Time Sharing System, a program to handle the line to the switch, a program for control of the terminals, the COINS control program, and a general purpose file search program. The latter includes the facility for English-like queries to be addressed to the system files by analysts throughout the community. Searches will be processed in the time sharing mode to ensure adequate response time. Responses will be displayed directly at the analysts terminal. The system will be ready for internal test by 1 April 1968 and will be connected to the DIA switch after 15 April. Review of the files to be included in the system is now underway, as well as plans for gathering data on the initial operational experience of the system during its initial months of experimental use. If successful, the follow-on system can be expected to be more sophisticated in design and to require high performance standards, multi-level security facilities, and common agreement of data element standards and user languages.

CHRONOLOGY:

Initiated: FY-64

DIA review(s) completed.

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification

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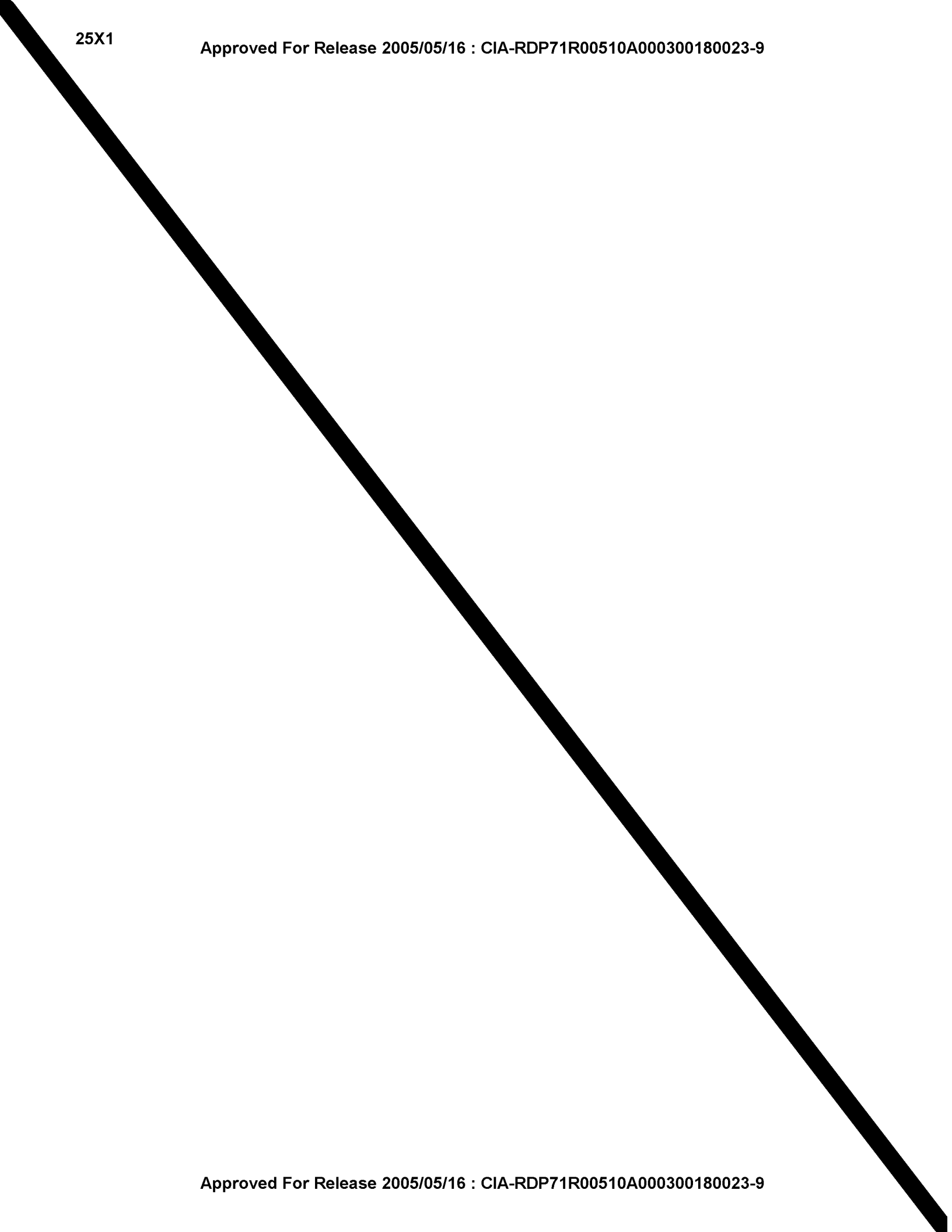

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